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The situation in the Middle East

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Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 5 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I provide you with the following summary of Israeli violations and acts of aggression against Lebanon:

Between 0435 and 0445 hours on 15 April 2004 an Israeli military boat in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons.

At 0409 hours on 18 April 2004 an Israeli military boat in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah fired three flare bombs.

On 18 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned in the occupied Shab`a Farms area fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons on the region surrounding Al-Summaqah and Radar hill, within the said area.

On 20 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned at Ramta and Zibdin, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said positions.

Between 1505 and 1550 hours on 21 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned at Zibdin and Ruwaysat al-Alam, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said positions.

At 1059 hours on 22 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned at Zibdin, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area surrounding the said position.

At 1920 hours on 22 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned at Ramta and Al-Summaqah, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said positions.

Between 2130 and 2230 hours on 22 April 2004 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew in an easterly direction over the sea off Sidon at medium altitude, circled over the Sidon and Beirut areas and then left Lebanon airspace, flying in the direction of Naqurah.

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At 0920 hours on 23 April 2004 an Israeli military boat in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons.

At 1430 hours on 23 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned in the occupied Shab`a Farms area fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons within the said area.

Between 0505 and 0755 hours on 25 April 2004 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the occupied Shab`a Farms area at medium altitude, heading north, and circled over the areas of Sidon, Damur and Nabatiyah, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

At 1849 hours on 25 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned at Al-Summaqah, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said position.

Between 1645 and 1730 hours on 26 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned at Ruwaysat al-Alam, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said position.

Between 2005 and 2050 hours on 26 April 2004 an Israeli military boat in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah fired a number of flare bombs and rounds of fire from medium-calibre weapons.

At 1755 hours on 27 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned at Radar hill, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said position.

Between 0100 and 0300 hours on 27 April 2004 an Israeli military boat in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons; between 1104 and 2040 hours the said boat fired a flare bomb over the sea.

Between 1200 and 1225 hours on 28 April 2004 four Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, as follows:

- Two flew in an easterly direction off Byblos (Jubayl), then circled over the areas of Byblos and Na`imah;
- Two overflew the sea off Shikka and circled about;
- At 1225 hours the four aircraft left Lebanese airspace on the western side, heading towards the Naqurah area.

At 0719 hours on 29 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned at Zibdin, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired three 120-mm artillery shells at the region surrounding Birkat al-Naqqar, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area.

Between 0513 and 0755 hours on 29 April 2004 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off Tyre at medium altitude, then proceeded east and circled over the Tyre and Damur regions, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1050 and 1145 hours on 30 April 2004 Israeli enemy forces positioned at Ramta and Radar hill, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said positions.

Between 1745 and 1840 hours on 3 May 2004 a number of Israeli helicopters flew at low altitude over the occupied Shab'a Farms area, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

These grave violations are part of a series of persistent and provocative Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace and territory and are in contravention of the principles of international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations has repeatedly called for their cessation.

In view of these violations and the stepping-up of Israeli threats to Lebanon and the safety of its territory and its citizens, Lebanon calls upon the Security Council to deter and prevent Israel from such dangerous acts, which pose a threat to international security and peace. Israel must assume full responsibility for those acts and for any consequences to which they may give rise.

In drawing your attention to the gravity and possible consequences of such acts, I request to have this letter of complaint circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative